

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-14 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-12 are amended, and new claim 15 is added. Support for the claim amendments and new claim can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original claim 6.

Rejection of Claims 1-14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, at item 2, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yano et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0012179, hereafter referred to as "Yano").

Reconsideration is respectfully request.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a router device, and recites:

a route judgment section for judging, when receiving a packet destined for a communication device in an external network from a radio terminal device in a same local network, the base station as a transfer destination regardless of information stored in a routing table in a case of the connection information acquired from the lower-layer information acquisition section being indicative of a connection with the base station, and judging a transfer destination by looking up the routing table in a case of the connection information being indicative of a non-connection with the base station.

That is, the routing judgment section judges (a) a connection information is indicative of a connection with the based station and (b) a transfer destination based on the connection information being indicative of a non-connection with the base station (e.g., based on the result of the first judgment).

In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that Yano discloses a communications method in which "the router device, when receiving a packet from a radio terminal device in a same local network during connection with a base station

external to the local network, transfers the packet received to the external base station with which the router itself is connected, regardless of the content of a routing table. (See paragraph [0066].)

Applicants respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention. This is because, Yano is silent with regard to "judging ... the base station as a transfer destination regardless of information stored in a routing table in the case of the connection information ... being indicative of a connection with the base station," as required by claim 1. Instead, Yano discloses a mobile communication system including mobile terminals 105, base stations 104, 112 and 117 which conduct communications with mobile terminals 105, respectively, using cells 109, 118 and 119 by using radio waves. Routers 106 and 111 of Yano transfers IP packets between cells 109, 118 and 119. (See Yano at [0056] - [0058].) In Yano, the routing address includes a prefix section 301 (which is the same for all sub-networks 102, 114 and 116 and an interface ID 302). In the interface ID portion of the routing address, each bit in the interface ID 302 corresponds to a different sub-network 102, 114 and 119. (See Yano at [0066] - [0068].) Yano further discloses that if the prefix of the destination address of the packet received from the HA (Home Agent) device 101 coincides with the prefix of the routing address and the interface ID has a one in a plurality of bits, then the router 106 generates and transmits packets each having a destination address that has a one in one bit of the interface ID. (See Yano at [0104].) That is, router 106 transmits packets with destination addresses associated with each selected sub-network. The Yano mobile communication system includes a multi-cast routing table (see Fig. 7 of Yano) which is used for routing based on interface ID and also routing based on prefix length 905. (See Yano at [0104] - [0105].) That is, in Yano routing is always based on information in the routing table.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Yano for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 3 and 6-10

Claims 3 and 6-10 which include similar but not identical features to those of claim 1 are submitted to patentably distinguish over Yano for at least similar reasons to those of claim 1.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 11-14

Claims 2, 4-5 and 11-14, which include all of the limitations of claim 1 or claim 3, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Yano for at least the same reasons as claim 1 or claim 3.

Claim 15

Claim 15, which includes all of the limitations of claim 1, is submitted to patentably distinguish over Yano for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

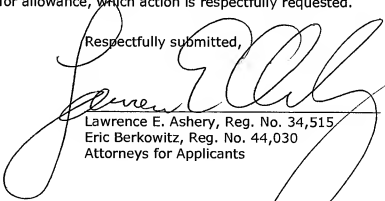
Claim 15 includes patentable distinctions beyond those of claim 1, namely: "when the router device is not connected with the base station, the connection instruction section checks whether the router is in a connectable status according to information indicative of the signal reception intensity from the base station and a connection is established when the router is in the connectable status," (emphasis added).

Consideration and allowance of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments, new claim and remarks, Applicants submits the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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